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today:

US\$ 58.62[↑]
60

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

PELOSI MISLEAD



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, May 14, 2009. Earlier Thursday, under strong attack from Republicans, Pelosi accused the CIA and Bush Administration of misleading her about waterboarding detainees in the war on terror and sharply rebutted claims she was complicit in the method's use.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

CAPS CRUSHED



Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby (87) and Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), from Russia, shake hands following the Penguins' 6-2 win in Game 7 of an NHL hockey second-round playoff series, Wednesday, May 13, 2009, in Washington.

See *Sports Today*

Aruba goes live to the world



ORANJESTAD – This past week, the group Pro Info production team flew over from Curacao and had a live transmission with Aruba's Prime Minister Mr. Nelson Oduber the

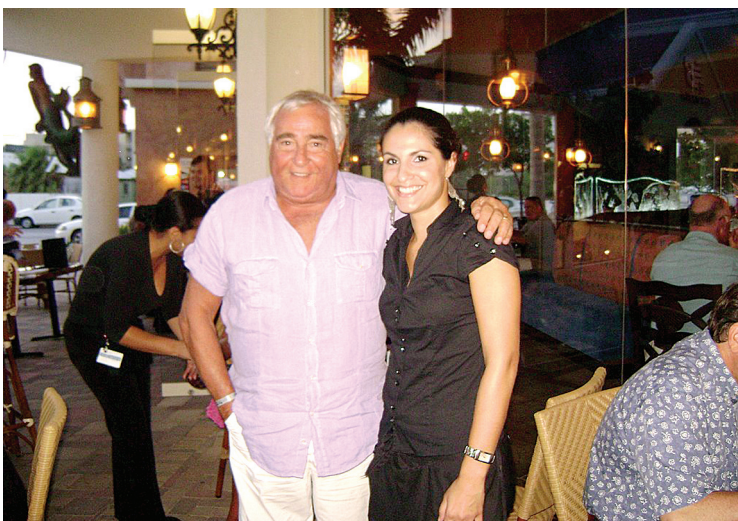
transmission went live at exactly 5 O'clock to the Netherland Antilles, The Netherlands and on the internet for the whole world to listen to.

The Prime Ministers topics were

state structure and actual economic information. At the end of this transmission the pro info team received a nice gift on behalf of the Arubian community. □

Enjoying the treasures of the sea at Moby Dick's

Get out of my way "Sai de Baixo" actor on Aruba



PASEO HERENCIA – Last night, Moby Dick's had the pleasure of welcoming the famous Brazilian Actor Luis Gustavo. Sai de Baixo, which loosely translates to "get out of my way", was hailed as a "breath of fresh air" in Brazilian TV comedy, given its innovative format and funny, smart stories. It was also considered the "lifeline" of Sunday night programming in Brazilian network television. The atmosphere of the show was very different from the usual U.S. sitcoms in the sense that it was extremely informal. The actors often acknowledged the presence of the audience, sometimes even interacting with them.

Moby Dick's is the newest name in the dining scene on Aruba



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IFA Descends on Buster's Garage



Palm beach -- Just when you think it is impossible to top the previous monthly happy hours, Buster's Garage does just that, with complimentary drinks and insane quantities of some of their best menu items. The International Friends of Aruba enjoyed the casual atmosphere of the newly opened Sports Bar/Neighborhood type hangout while absolutely over indulging in the copious amounts of food and beverage. Co-owner Rusty Schultz was on hand to see to all details for this gregarious group, who know a good deal and great food when they see it. IFA thanks Buster's Garage for a great night and wants everyone to give their regular 2 for 1 Happy Hour the attention it deserves! Visit them soon in Palm Beach at the South Beach Centre ☐



Referendum on Curaçao's future opens old wounds

A referendum on the future of Curaçao within the Kingdom of the Netherlands is dividing the population of the Caribbean island.

By Miriam Sluis in Willemstad and Barbara Rijlaarsdam in The Hague

Almost 119,000 voters on Curaçao, a former Dutch colony in the Caribbean, will get a say in the future of their island this Friday. A referendum offers a choice between 'sí' or 'nò' to a deal brokered between the local Curaçao government and the Netherlands. If the population agrees, the Dutch state will take responsibility for 1.7 billion euros of the Dutch Antilles debt - most of which was built up by Curaçao. But in exchange the Dutch want supervision over state spending and the maintenance of law and order.

The Dutch say the deal is a final offer. But the opposition parties in Curaçao are offended by the agreement made between the governments; they accuse the Netherlands of neo-colonialism.

The relationship between the Netherlands and its former Caribbean colonies has always been thorny. Curaçao is currently part of the Dutch Antilles, a separate country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. But that country is set to be dissolved next year. What it will be replaced with is currently the subject of intense debate. After years of negotiations, the scenario on the table now is that Curaçao and St. Maarten will become independent countries - as Aruba already is - within the kingdom, whereas the remaining smaller islands - Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba - will become special municipalities of the Netherlands itself.

The latest polls indicate the referendum race is too close to call. If the sí-vote comes out on top, the transition will proceed as planned, as will the restructuring of most of Curaçao's debt. But if the nò-camp wins, the consequences are far from clear.

Threat to cut off funds

Antillean prime minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage has said she will resign if the

no camp prevails, but her coalition government may still decide to disregard the result of the referendum. In the Netherlands, prime minister Jan Peter Balkenende and a majority in parliament have threatened to cut off the funds needed to restructure Curaçao's finances if the deal is turned down. Ank Bijleveld, the deputy minister for national affairs who is responsible for the relationship with the islands, said she hopes the people of Curaçao realise this is a unique opportunity. "They should not expect to get more money for the debt restructuring by saying no. It may even become less, because we are experiencing some serious financial problems in the Netherlands too," Bijleveld said.

But according to Douwe Boersema, a professor of constitutional law, the Netherlands is obligated under UN decolonisation laws to start new talks with Curaçao regardless of the outcome of the referendum.

The Dutch government is well aware that it has to use the momentum and reach a deal before the end of its current mandate, because enthusiasm for the plan is quickly evaporating in the Netherlands. The populist Party for Freedom - which is getting high scores in the opinion polls - has already said it wants to rid the Netherlands of the islands completely.

Rooted in a history of slavery On Curaçao itself, opposition attempts to convince the population to vote no caused chaos on one of the main roads on the island this week. A string of cars blocked the route from the capital Willemstad to the airport. In front of a shopping mall, supporters of the opposition party MAN handed out gadgets expressing their affiliation with the no-camp. Drivers abandoned their cars - motors running - to collect stickers, T-shirts and small flags.

Curaçaoans are being asked to say yes or no to the question:

"I approve of the result of the round-table conference to come to an autonomous Curaçao within the kingdom". But the dispute has moved far beyond that proposition.

The negotiations have opened up all sorts of old wounds, and the historic differences within Curaçao society now seem stronger than ever. In a country rooted in a history of slavery and colonialism, the divide between yes and no runs mostly along racial and economic lines.

The whiter, richer and more educated people are more likely to vote in favour of the deal, while the less privileged black population leans towards no.

Traditionally, it has been the poorer segment of the population that clings to the security of close ties with the Netherlands, while the local intelligentsia says it is fed up with Dutch "interference".

Fed up with both sides But Sonny, a mechanic living in a suburb of Willemstad, doesn't see it that way. "Those rich kids are saying: take the Dutch money and let them rule here if they want. But I would rather keep control. I don't want things to be the way they used to be. If you always take money from others, you will never gain self-respect."

Sonny's neighbourhood is dominated by nò-voters, and drivers with a sí on their car are afraid to drive through here from fear of having rocks thrown at them. Likewise, the nò-supporters are feeling less than welcome in the exclusive residential areas these days.

With the two campaigns trying to outdo each other with rallies, there is a growing minority that is fed up with both sides. "The referendum is completely politicised," said student Clark Abraham. He said he will turn in a blank ballot paper. Abraham was worried about what comes after the referendum. Violent incidents are expected no matter what the result.

"Whether sí or nò wins, we are a divided society. Democracy



Supporters of the nò vote abandoned their cars - motors running - to collect gadgets that show their affiliation with the no-camp

Photo Prince Victor

is not the dictatorship of the minority. The question is how we're going to deal with that," Abraham said. □

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Memorable Mother's Week at Geox



ORANJESTAD – Festivities went on at Geox all week in honor of Mother's Day. Saturday was especially festive with Bailey's Irish Cream Frappe drinks, courtesy of Romar Trading poured all day and live music with the Crystal Lounge Cuban band. But the activity went on all week with moms and kids coming in to explore the wonders of Happy Feet taking advantage of the discount cards mailed to many homes here on the island. All shoppers came to explore the solution offered by Geox,

the stylish Italian shoe brand whose rubber sole is perforated and contains a special micro porous membrane that absorbs and expels heat without letting water in. Sweat can pass through leaving feet cool and content. Store owner Danny Biemans reports, "They came, they saw, they bought, Geox sells itself, it is a fantastic product." Geox, the shoe that breathes is available in many styles for men women and children at the new concept store at the Renaissance Mall. □

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Maria Perez is mother of the year at La Cabana



and serenaded by spiritual singer Junior Garcia and the evergreen Trio Los Arubenos. The maintenance department and members of management went all out to decorate the conference room and put together the entertaining and diverse program culminating with a fantastic raffle with many gifts. Resort board members were also on hand to congratulate all mothers and celebrate their special day with the Mosconis, the Coopers and the Pozniaks among them. Joe, Jessica, Tessy, Marc, Stanley and Pierre personally greeted the ladies and made a special toast in their honor.

Pictured here MOTY, Maria Perez, and her colleagues enjoy a lovely party. □



EAGLE BEACH – Mother of the Year Maria Perez, from the housekeeping department at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club was showered with gifts

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Showing What's Been Done With A \$5,000 Donation From The Steakhouse

Fundacion Autismo Educates Ruth's Chris Team



PALM BEACH – On Friday May 8, Ruth's Chris Steak House invited the Fundacion Autismo Aruba (FAA) to its restaurant to educate Ruth's Chris team about the Autism Foundation. This presentation was FAA's initiative in connection with the \$5,000.00 donation Ruth's Chris Steak House made to the Autism

Foundation. The funds for this donation were raised by wine auctions held during the opening celebrations of the famous steakhouse in February 2008.

FAA - President Monique Kuiperi and coordinator Thaisse Erasmus took the opportunity to show the Ruth's Chris staff members

during their department meeting what had been done with the donated funds. They presented the official Autism Foundation website (<http://www.autismoaruba.org>) to which the restaurant has contributed with their donation. They also mentioned that with the funds of Marriott's steakhouse they were able to purchase a laptop and beamer for their presentations and lectures at schools and during parent meetings. President Monique also took the time to explain what FAA stands for and educated the Ruth's Chris staff about autism in general. Over 20 associates were present at the presentation and were pleased that the donation was spent to good use.

Fundacion Autismo Aruba (Aruba Autism



Foundation) was called to life in 2005 to address concerns of parents in particular. The foundation was formed by parents of autistic children who had to navigate especially the educational and medical system in order to find the necessary support for their children. FAA therefore was formed to assist other parents in Aruba on how best to help their autistic child, and also to create awareness in general on autism. The main goal is to allow parents, care givers, medical doctors, and teachers to recognize signs of autism as early as possible, in order ensure early intervention, which thus far, is the only treatment for this lifelong disability.

About Ruth's Chris Steak House Ruth's Chris Steak House, Inc. is the largest fine-dining company in the U.S., as measured by the

total number of company-owned and franchise-owned restaurants, with 118 locations worldwide. Founded in New Orleans by Ruth Fertel in 1965, Ruth's Chris specializes in USDA Prime grade steaks served in Ruth's Chris signature fashion ... "sizzling." To experience fine dining at it's prime ... just follow the sizzle to Ruth's Chris Steak House, located at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino (Lobby level, North tower). Currently the renowned steakhouse offers a \$89 dinner special for two, offering 2 three-course meals. For information and reservations, visit www.RuthsChris.com or call 520-6600 (daily after 1 PM). Reservations highly recommended.

In the pictures Ruth's Chris team listening to a presentation of President Monique Kuiperi of the Fundacion Autismo Aruba.



New non-stop flights from Miami to Bonaire

KRALENDIJK, Bonaire - The Tourism Corporation Bonaire on Tuesday announced that Insel Air will be commencing a new weekly non-stop flight from Miami, Florida to Bonaire effective July 4, 2009. The flight will operate weekly on Saturdays throughout the year. Insel Air flight #7I 907 will depart Bonaire at 11:55 am arriving into Miami at 3:05 pm. The return flight #7I 908 will depart Miami at 4:25 pm arriving

into Bonaire at 7:35 pm. Insel Air will use either an MD 82 or MD 83 aircraft configured with 152 economy seats. Marion Wilson, Association Executive of the Bonaire Hotel And Tourism Association said: "We are pleased to have Insel Air contributing to Bonaire's air portfolio. The Miami flight will compliment our already non-stop Houston and NY flights, making this summer the perfect time to visit Bonaire." □



Curacao refinery near return to full operations

A Venezuela-run oil refinery in Curacao is expected to resume full production by the end of the week as it recovers from a total shutdown caused by a power outage. The Isla refinery on the Dutch Caribbean island said Wednesday in a statement that production is down to about 175,000 barrels per day as units come back online. Operators hope to catch up and reach an average of 200,000 per day for May. The refinery was shut down entirely April 27 by a power outage. It is run by Venezuelan state-oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA and can produce about 220,000 barrels per day □





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Oranjestad – The Crystal & Seaport Casinos, at the Renaissance Resorts in the heart of Oranjestad recently commemorated employees' anniversaries during a sumptuous lunch party organized at the Renaissance Convention Center by the department of Human Resources.

Members of management expressed gratitude for long time service and presented those celebrating a career milestone with a handsome engraved plaque.

Marking his 5th year anniversary Michael Peterson, Crystal Slot Attendant while Gilbert Kock, Crystal Operation and Mariela Kock, Seaport Slots, remembered their 10th anniversary with Michael Croes and Sharles de Palm, both from the Surveillance Department.

Celebrating their 15th year anniversary Elio Heronimo, Host Department, Alwin Lasten and Gwendelyn Montesant, both from the Seaport Cage, Iginio de Cuba, Surveillance, Maria Richardson, Seaport Cleaner, Juana Geerman-Pinales, Crystal Cleaner.

The festive lunch also acknowledge the teams of the quarter and was a much enjoyed midday affair attended by the heroes of the day. □



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EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units distributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with

waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool. The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the com

mon area to lounge and relax.

Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclu-

35 EXCLUSIVE OCEAN VIEW UNITS STARTING IN THE LOW 400'S

sive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

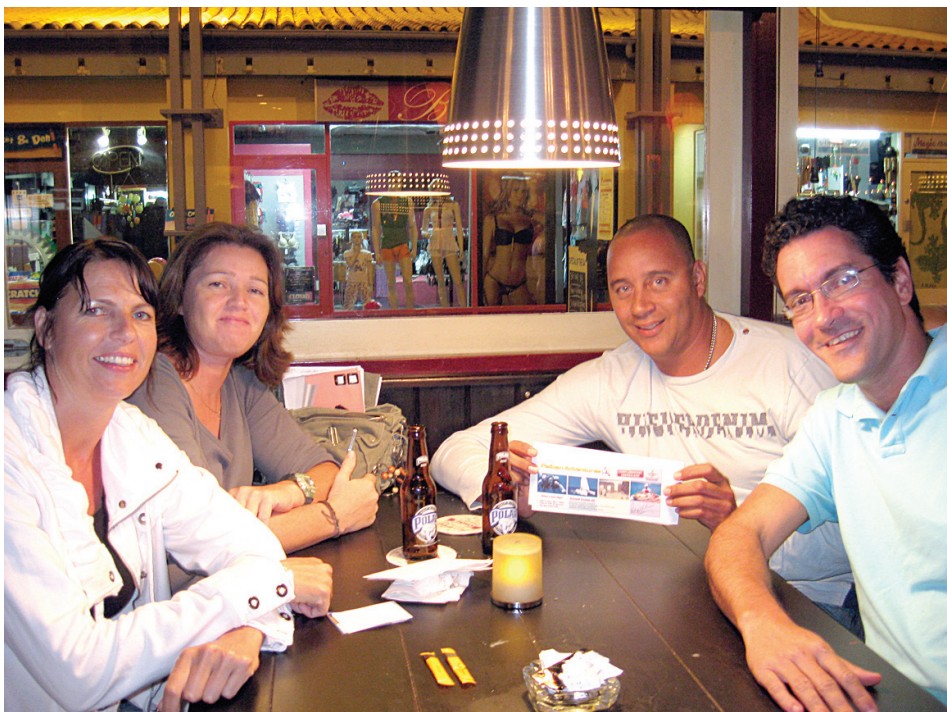
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Unbeatable, it seems

Team Bier Hier wins Baileys

Quiz Night Series again



The second eighth-week series of the Baileys Quiz Night at Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace has a winner: team Bier Hier proved once again that they were unbeatable. The team has won the Sunset Tour of Pelican Adventures. In second place was Eureka, winning a dinner

voucher at Cactus Jack's. Kamikaze won two trays of Balashi Beer. For the teams in fourth, fifth and sixth place there was a tray of Balashi as well, courtesy of Tropical Bottling Co. Bier Hier was already sure of its victory after seven rounds, but for the other teams the last



edition of Tuesday's quiz night was decisive. Eureka was the winner and a bottle of Baileys was its reward. The next series of the Baileys Quiz Night will start on May 26. So get your team members lined up and start practising! □

A romantic wedding

Karen & George tied the knot



EAGLE- On May 11, 2009, Karen Kennedy & George Dreier exchanged vows on the pristine sand of Eagle Beach.

Karen of Ewing, New Jersey met George of Yardley, Pennsylvania on the internet at Perfect Match .com. After

a few chats with each other they decided to meet. The distance between them was only 10 miles and they dined at the Washington Crossing Restaurant for their first date. Everything was splendid and they soon started dating in June 2001.

George proposed Valentines Day 2007 while on a romantic cruise on Adventure of the Seas.

This past February Karen started planning her wedding with Edwina Werleman of E2 Events & Celebrations.

The wedding ceremony took place at Eagle Beach with officiate Jeffrey. George & Karen exchanged rings with vows from the heart as they said "I Do."

Bella Aruba Photography captured forever moments for their loved ones to cherish. The family will be very surprised with the news since this was done secretly. .

When they arrive home they will tell George's 4 children and Karen 1 child about their unity as one under Aruba's sun. "We chose Aruba because on are one day on the island of our cruise we did not see enough of paradise. Edwina was wonderful and took care of everything perfectly", replied Karen.

Their marvelous evening began as newlyweds at Papiamento restaurant where they enjoyed a romantic



evening under the stars. Last night the newlyweds were dining at the legendary Buccaneer Restaurant and Bella Aruba was there as well

and was happy to capture their smiles next to the turtle tank

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



B-day Bash at Occidental Happy Hour



ORANJESTAD – This past Wednesday night at the fabulous All Inclusive Happy Hour at the Occidental

Resort, Alejandro Fuenmayor celebrated his birthday. Everyone enjoyed great music through out the night... After



the Happy Hour, Alejandro and his friends took over the event and continued with a fantastic birthday celebration of fun including everyone singing Happy Birthday in 3 different languages. Congratulations to Alejandro from Aruba Today. □

Photos by Julia Renfro



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Bank, technology stocks lure in bargain hunters

By **TIM PARADIS** and **STEPHEN BERNARD**,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Investors put aside jitters about the economy to do a little bargain hunting.

Stocks rose Thursday after three mostly down days as traders bought beaten-down financial and technology stocks. The

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, May 14, 2009.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

buying was subdued after a worse-than-expected weekly unemployment report added to concerns that the economic recovery might not come as quickly as hoped.

The market is down sharply this week as investors worry that the optimism that fed a massive spring rally might have been premature. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is still 32 percent above the 12-year low it hit in early March.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended Thursday up 46 points, but lagged gains by the S&P 500 index and Nasdaq composite index. Financial stocks rose after falling earlier in the week and lifted the KBW Bank Index 3.7 percent.

Technology shares gained after software maker CA Inc. said its fiscal fourth-quarter earnings rose as cost-cutting compensated for a drop in revenue.

The advance came as the market grappled with another reminder of the strained job market. The Labor Department's weekly data showed more workers filing for unemployment benefits. New claims jumped to 637,000, above what economists had forecast.

The overall number of people seeking unemployment benefits grew faster than expected, rising to 6.6 million, while continuing claims hit a 15th straight weekly record. Analysts had expected some rebound after stocks tumbled Wednesday, sending the S&P 500 index down 2.7 percent. The market was shaken by a Commerce Department report that retail sales fell unexpectedly in April for the second straight month, and by a separate report that showed home foreclosures rising.

The twin hits to two key areas of the economy — consumer spending and the housing market — have led investors to drop stocks this week and seek the shelter of bonds. That put on hold a powerful rally that carried the market through March and April.

"Expectations got overblown and the harsh unfortunate reality is that unemployment continues to climb and that consumers remain under pressure," said Stuart Schweitzer, global markets strategist at J.P. Morgan's Private Bank. "The green shoots of recent weeks are minor compared with the field of dandelions still present in the economy."

The Dow rose 46.43, or 0.6 percent, to 8,331.32. The S&P 500 index rose 9.15, or 1 percent, to 893.07, while the Nasdaq rose 25.02, or 1.5 percent, to 1,689.21.

More than two stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 6.8 billion shares, compared with 6.7 billion shares Wednesday.

"I think we're at a crossroads. I'm looking for more evidence to say that this is a sustainable rally," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank.

That evidence may be hard to come by in the next two weeks. With first-quarter earnings reports winding down, the government's stress test results out of the way and few economic reports expected, investors may feel like they're in a bit of a data vacuum. And when there's little information to go on, a nervous market tends to fall.

Regional banks Fifth Third Bancorp and Huntington Bancshares Inc. showed some of the strongest gains. Fifth Third rose 50 cents, or 7.1 percent, to \$7.52. Huntington rose 31 cents, or 7 percent, to \$4.72.

CA, which makes software to run information technology systems, rose 95 cents, or 5.5 percent, to \$18.27.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. fell 93 cents to \$49.10 after its first-quarter results failed to excite the market. Kohl's Corp. fell 71 cents to \$41.24 after its report. But retailer Urban Outfitters Inc. rose 21 cents to \$19.51 after posting results that beat forecasts. □

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Anger, sadness as ax falls on Chrysler dealers

By James B. Kelleher and Kyle Peterson

CHICAGO (Reuters) – Dealers across the United States reacted with a mixture of anger and sadness on Thursday to word that bankrupt automaker Chrysler LLC plans to eliminate franchise agreements with them as part of its restructuring efforts.

But most, even those surprised by the news, entertained little hope they could stop Chrysler from following through on the proposed closures, the latest chapter in the decline of a company that was -- for a brief period in the 1990s -- the most profitable car manufacturer in the world.

As a result, the dealers said they were already taking the sad but necessary preliminary steps to close or consolidate businesses that, in many cases, had carried their family names as well as those of the automaker for generations.

"Today is a tough day for a lot of people," said Alex Planas, the general manager of the Tamiami Chrysler Jeep Dodge in Miami, Florida, which employs 100 workers.

Chrysler notified all its dealers on Thursday about its plans to eliminate 25 percent of its retail showrooms and is seeking permission from a U.S. bankruptcy court to terminate franchise agreements.

One Chicago dealer, Stanley Balzekas, characterized the notification as a "screw you" letter because it was "cold and very factual."

The automaker sought approval in a bankruptcy court filing to terminate franchise agreements with 789 of 3,181 dealerships as of June 9.

Chrysler, which filed for bankruptcy on April 30, and larger rival General Motors Corp, have faced pressure to cut struggling dealerships to bring their large sales networks in line with those run by more successful automakers like Toyota Motor Corp which has only 1,200 dealers.

The National Automobile Dealers Association, which represents the country's 20,000 new car dealers, estimated that each Chrysler dealership employs about 48 people on average. That would mean that

the cuts by Chrysler could lead to a potential loss of almost 38,000 jobs.

Mark Calisi, 47, who owns Eagle Auto-Mall in Riverhead, New York, says he was "devastated" to learn that his dealership would be closed. He said Chrysler accounts for a third of his business, which also sells Volvo, Mazda and Kia, and that on Thursday he had to sack 30 of his 100 employees.

"I can't even give severance because Chrysler's not taking back my parts," he said.

Calisi, who said he'd just invested \$8 million in a new dealership, blamed the federal task force overseeing auto industry restructuring for his plight and said he was weighing his legal options.

"I have been with Chrysler for 13 years and my father was with Chrysler for 30 years," he said. "No matter which way you cut the cake it's devastating."

HARD TIMES

Regina Alexander, service and parts manager of the family-owned Arnold Motor Sales Inc, which has sold Chrysler cars in a little town east of Phoenix, Arizona, since 1971 and employs seven workers, called the news "difficult" but a reflection of the grim economic climate.

"We've been selling to generations of families here ..., we've been through all the mine shutdowns and the mines reopening," she said. "So we've been through some hard times, but this is probably by far the worst."

Alexander said the dealership, which had no clear indication from Chrysler the ax was going to fall, had no plans to sue Chrysler and would continue to operate, servicing vehicles already on the road and selling used ones.

Chrysler said that more than 80 percent of the dealers being eliminated sell more used cars than new and could look to stay in that business. Almost half of the rejected dealers sell less than 100 new vehicles per year.

"They want every dealer to be a huge dealer," said Balzekas, whose Chrysler-Jeep dealership on the South side of Chicago has carried his family's name since 1926.

"In an urban area, that doesn't

work because of the cost of land."

Some dealers, like Curtis Benson, the part-owner of Benson Motor Inc, which has served Ames, Iowa, for 39 years and also sells Buicks and GM trucks, will stay in the new vehicle business, which is going through one of its worst downturns in decades.

But now that he is no longer selling Dodge products, Benson said he will have to rein in sponsorship of community organizations and events by about 50 percent.

"I was a dealer in the late '70s and early '80s, when we went through the recession back then and I thought that was the worst I'd ever see in my lifetime," Benson said. "But this is a whole other cat." □



An employee of the DBA Tamiami Chrysler Jeep Dodge dealership talks on the phone next to a Chrysler car in Miami, Florida May 14, 2009. DBA Tamiami Chrysler Jeep Dodge dealership is one of the 789 dealerships affected as Chrysler LLC notified all U.S.dealers on Thursday about its plans to eliminate 25 percent of its retail showrooms and is seeking permission from a U.S. bankruptcy court to terminate franchise agreements with 789 of 3,181 dealerships as of June 9.

REUTERS/Carlos Barria



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GOP: The Way Forward

Larry Elder

Creators Syndicate — “Republicans, act more like Democrats!”

Actually, former Secretary of State Colin Powell put it somewhat differently when he offered his prescription to extricate the GOP from its “deep trouble.”

Powell insists that Republicans must accept that the country has changed. “Americans do want to pay taxes for services,” he said. “Americans are looking for more government in their life, not less.” In other words, Republicans simply need to surrender to President Obama and the Democrats’ outrageous and radical push/pull for more government in, well, everything. Or, as former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean snappily puts it, “I think we’ve had quite enough capitalism in the last eight years, and I think we need some regulation now.”

Many, if not most, Americans do want a welfare state. Certainly, Americans rail against excessive government spending, but try asking, “OK, where would you like to cut?” Health care? Well, no. Education? No, not that. Aid to the poor? No. Social Security? Uh-uh. Disaster relief for those hard hit by floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, broken levees? No, too harsh. Unemployment benefits for those out of work during this severe recession? No, lacks compassion. The problem is that Republicans have already been acting like Democrats — and for a long, long time. In 2000, they nominated then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush. He promised to serve as the education president and signed into law No Child Left Behind, which further injected the feds into a state matter. He promised and delivered a prescription bill for seniors, which expanded Medicare by the largest amount since the program’s inception. His dad, former President George Herbert Walker Bush, signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, a hideous intrusion into the private sector rationalized by compassion. On the 10th anniversary of the ADA, George W. praised his dad’s program.

Let’s go back further. Republicans initially resisted — and quite fiercely — the New Deal programs passed during the Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration. And the Supreme Court, at least initially, declared many of Roosevelt’s expansionary programs unconstitutional.

After Roosevelt’s first win, in 1932, Republicans failed to recapture the White House until 1952. That year, a major GOP contender for the nomination, the “fiscally conservative” Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio, promised to undo parts of the New Deal. But even he accepted Social Security and public housing for the poor. □



Obama's call for peace in Sri Lanka

By the Monitor's Editorial Board

For the 21 million people who live in Sri Lanka — a tear-shaped island in the Indian Ocean — many a tear has been shed over a quarter-century of conflict. The minority Tamils and majority Sinhalese just can't seem to find peace.

But now that a US president has forcefully spoken out against the war's tragic consequences for civilians, perhaps the world community will finally help bring about a settlement. “Sri Lanka must seek a peace that is secure and lasting and grounded in respect for all of its citizens,” President Obama said this week.

Protecting some 50,000 Tamils now caught in a major and perhaps final battle between the government and rebel Tamil Tigers — let alone reconciling Tamils and Sinhalese after the conflict — won't be easy.

Too many global players have a stake in how this conflict ends.

By sheer geography, Sri Lanka has often been a strategic pawn for big powers. It sits astride the sea lanes that bring oil to Asia and Asian exports to Europe and the Middle East.

China, for instance, is building a “commercial” port at the island's southern tip as part of its seafaring expansion. Japan is Sri Lanka's largest bilateral donor. India wants to dominate the Indian Ocean while both Pakistan and China have provided weapons to the Sri Lankan military. And for decades, the navies of Russia and America have eyed Trincomalee, one of the most ideal warm-water ports in the world. Despite a recent increase in killings of civilians by both government and Tamil Tiger forces, the UN Security Council has not been forceful enough. China, as a veto-wielding member, doesn't want to jeopardize its growing ties with Sri Lanka's leaders as it seeks a strategic advantage with India.

On Wednesday, the council finally expressed “grave concern” over the plight of Tamil civilians caught in the conflict. Such a weak response should only compel the US and others to be more outspoken.

For years, Europe has been the most forceful in decrying the war's human rights atrocities and in seeking peace for this former British colony (previously called Ceylon). But in 2006, after a Norway-mediated cease-fire collapsed, the hard-line Sinhalese leaders, backed by strident Buddhist monks, decided an all-out military victory over the Tigers was necessary.

At the time, in the post-9/11 era, it was hard for the US to argue with this military offensive. The Tigers, who seek an independent Tamil homeland by force, relied on terror to take over much of the island's northeast. They virtually invented the tactic of suicide bombing, later used by Palestinians against Israel and by jihadists in Iraq and Afghanistan. And as one of Asia's oldest democracies, Sri Lanka has an elected government acting on the wishes of the majority.

But the Sinhalese-led military has been too brutal and lacking in counterinsurgency tactics, while too many government leaders make anti-Tamil comments. Dissent is stifled and the government is suspected of the recent murder of a prominent (Sinhalese) journalist who criticized their tactics.

Most of all, it has not been aggressive enough in helping the recovery of captured Tamil areas or giving Tamils there the degree of autonomy they need to quell fears of future Sinhalese-led violence.

Both sides have suffered from their extremists. The rebels, known officially as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), are led by the ruthless Velupillai Prabhakaran. And many elite Sinhalese express a Buddhist supremism and an intolerant ethnic nationalism. Such feelings are in large part a legacy of the colonial period and a mismanaged economy.

As in many religious and ethnic conflicts, the Tamils and Sinhalese must see themselves as citizens of one country united by a shared history, destiny, and democracy. (More Sri Lankans died in the 2004 tsunami than in this conflict.) □

'Slumdog' child star's home torn down

By ERIKA KINETZ,
Associated Press Writer

MUMBAI, India — The 10-year-old child star of "Slumdog Millionaire" was awakened Thursday by a policeman wielding a bamboo stick and ordered out of his home. Minutes later it was bulldozed along with dozens of other shanties in the Mumbai slum he calls home.

"I was frightened," said Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, who lost his pet kittens in the chaos.

"Where is my chicken?" he asked forlornly, picking through the shamble of broken wood and twisted metal sheeting in search of the family hen.

Eight Oscars and \$326 million in box office receipts have done little so far to improve the lives of the two impoverished child stars plucked from obscurity to star in the blockbuster. They have been showered with gifts and brief bursts of fame, but their day-to-day lives in the Garib Nagar slum — the "city of

the poor" — are little changed. After the latest misfortune, Azhar and his family will be spending the night on the muddy ground surrounded by the rubble of their shack. His 9-year-old co-star Rubina Ali has fared no better: her family's shanty was flooded for days last month with sewage water from a backed-up drain.

For Azhar's family, the latest problem began at 11 a.m. Thursday, when a bulldozer and about 100 men descended on the slum to tear down 30 illegally built homes — a common occurrence in India's chaotic cities, where officials struggle to keep crowding under control.

The result is a cycle of destruction and debt few can escape.

U.D. Mistry, an official with the city's Bombay Municipal Corporation, said the latest razing was part of a "pre-monsoon demolition drive."

He said only illegally built shanties — not homes that

were legally owned — were bulldozed.

"They were removed. That is the principle," he said, adding he was not aware the young "Slumdog" star lived in the slum.

Mistry said shanty dwellers who can prove they have lived there more than 15 years — which would include Azhar's family — will be resettled elsewhere in government housing. Such promises often come to nothing, though, and even when slum-dwellers are given housing, it is often in poor-quality buildings on the outskirts of cities, far from jobs.

Residents of Garib Nagar vowed Thursday to rebuild, though many have yet to pay off the loans they took out — at 20 percent monthly interest — to reconstruct the shanties they lost when the city tore them down last year.

Azhar's mother sat despondently Thursday afternoon on the stack of belongings the family managed to save. Nearby, Azhar



'Slumdog Millionaire' child star Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, right, drives a bicycle past demolished shanties in his neighborhood in Mumbai, India, Thursday, May 14, 2009. City workers bulldozed the home of Azharuddin Thursday as part of the demolition of dozens of shanties in a Mumbai slum.

(AP Photo/Gautam Singh)

dodged piles of metal sheeting and debris as he rode through his destroyed neighborhood on a shiny new bike given to him by a fan from Britain, a fancy black-and-red helmet on his head.

Azhar wants to move. "I am fed up," he said.

Behind him a wrinkled movie poster of "Slumdog Millionaire" waved in the breeze. Scrawled in black marker was a message

from the movie's director, Danny Boyle: "Azhar, with love and thanks, Danny Boyle."

"Slumdog" filmmakers say they've done their best to help the young stars.

They set up a trust to ensure the children get proper homes, a good education and a nest egg when they finish high school. They also donated \$747,500 to a charity to help slum kids in Mumbai. □




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EAGLE- Last Friday was a united in a friendly way. It all great day for three couples who started at the Aruban Resort



pool bar. Matt & Amanda Jobe of Siren, Wisconsin were enjoying their 1st anniversary and ran into last years couple Carla & Dan Bazen of Grand Rapids, Michigan who were celebrating their 21st anniversary.

This was both their second vacation in Aruba. While sipping on cocktails and taking in the sun they started talking with another couple whom they met at the pool bar; Jenny Daley and Erik Minman from Charlotte N. Carolina.

These two lovebirds have been dating for 7 years and visiting Aruba for their first time for a fun getaway. After enjoying a day at the pool they made plans to enjoy the rest of the week together.

On Saturday night Jenny and Erik had a romantic dinner at Screaming Eagle. While laying on their plush beds Erik proposed his love to Jenny. Everyone knew back home and also the friends they met in Aruba.

Jenny was blown away because she thought this day would never come.

Their vacation has come to an end today but they enjoyed a full week of sun, relaxation a great A.T.V adventure with Watapana tours, "We loved Phillip and his pets, Great tour with lots to see" replied Jenny. The vacation did not end their, they enjoyed a day at De Palm Island, especially swimming with the blue parrots and took a jeep ride to Baby Beach where they snorkeled and walked around to discover Aruba's jewel of San Nicolas.

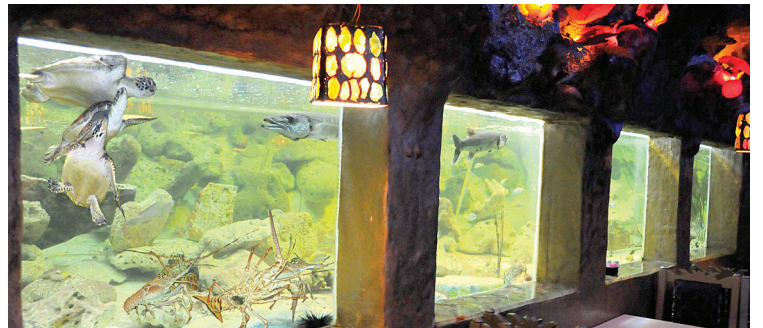
On Wednesday night they

asked Aruban friend Del Roy which restaurant he loved as a local and he recommended the Buccaneer. The trio of couples were fascinated with the legendary Buccaneer Restaurant filled with the huge aquariums with sea turtles, shark, eels, fish of all colors bottled up under one roof. "We are so happy we were told about this restaurant it was by far the best we have had in the two years of returning and are happy we found this jewel with great food especially the shrimp dishes" stated Amanda.

These wonderful couple truly received an Aruba experience thanks to the Aruban Resort and all the Happy people who make Aruba "One Happy Island".

Have a safe flight back and a safe return next year. □

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



House leader: CIA misled her on waterboarding

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, bluntly accused the CIA on Thursday of misleading her and other lawmakers about its use of waterboarding during the Bush administration, escalating a controversy grown to include both political parties, the spy agency and the White House. “It is not the policy of this agency to mislead the United States Congress,” responded CIA spokesman George Little, although he refused to answer directly when asked whether Pelosi’s accusation was accurate.

But the House’s top Democrat, speaking at a news conference, was unequivocal about a CIA briefing she received in the fall of 2002. “We were told that waterboarding was not being used,” the speaker said. “That’s the only mention, that they were not using it.

Continued on Next Page



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. leaves the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, May 13, 2009, after meeting with President Barack Obama to discuss healthcare.

Associated Press

House votes \$97B in war funds

ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite Democrats’ rising anxiety about Afghanistan, the House of Representatives on Thursday easily passed a \$96.7 billion measure filling President Barack Obama’s request for US war spending and foreign aid efforts there and in Iraq. Some 51 Democrats broke with Obama, who is sending thousands more troops into Afghanistan, but all but a handful of Republicans stood behind the president to produce a 368-60 tally. Republicans supported the measure even though majority Democrats added almost \$12 billion to Obama’s \$85 billion request. The measure would boost total funding provided by Congress for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars above \$900 billion.

In the Senate, a key committee approved a companion \$91.3 billion bill that sticks closely to Obama’s war request and also includes \$50

million for the Pentagon to begin the promised closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The issue of closing Guantanamo is addressed in the House measure as well — not with funding but with a promise that detainees from the prison will not be released on U.S. soil. A new provision, however, anticipates some of the 241 detainees at Guantanamo will be transferred to the United States to stand trial or serve their sentences.

A separate conflict over the war-funding measure concerns whether it should provide a \$108 billion U.S. contribution to the International Monetary Fund as part of an expanded \$500 billion IMF loan fund, a cornerstone of last month’s Group of 20 nations summit in London to assist poor countries struggling through the global economic downturn.

Continued on Page B4

APNewsBreak: Habitat for Humanity gets \$100M gift



This Oct. 6, 2008 photo released by Habitat for Humanity International shows J. Ronald Terwilliger of Atlanta working on a Habitat for Humanity project in Nshavan, Armenia. The housing market may be sputtering, but Habitat for Humanity International is getting a \$100 million gift from Terwilliger, a former chief executive of housing developer Trammell Crow Residential Co. and a longtime member of Habitat’s board of directors, who said his work has offered him a look at the struggle of poor people to find decent housing.

Associated Press

GREG BLUESTEIN

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Habitat for Humanity International is getting a \$100 million gift to build houses around the globe from an Atlanta developer who said his work has offered him a look at the struggle of poor people to find decent housing.

Continued on Page B3



In this May 6, 2002, file photo, Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi talks with supporters and well-wishers after praying at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. Myanmar’s military government on Thursday, May 14, 2009, planned to put the detained leader on trial in connection with the intrusion of an American who sneaked into her compound last week.

Associated Press

Myanmar democracy activist charged by junta

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was charged Thursday with breaking the terms of her house arrest just two weeks before she was to go free, a move seen as an attempt by the military junta to silence its chief opponent ahead of next year’s election.

Continued on Page B8



In this Wednesday, March 11, 2009 file photo, House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

HOUSE LEADER

Continued from Page B1

And we now know that earlier they were.” She suggested the CIA release the briefing material.

Pelosi also vehemently disputed Republican charges that she was complicit in the use of waterboarding, and she suggested the Republicans were trying to shift the focus of public attention away from the Bush administration’s use of techniques that she and

President Barack Obama have described as torture.

Coincidentally, Pelosi spoke as the Central Intelligence Agency rejected former Vice President Dick Cheney’s request to release secret memos judging whether waterboarding and other harsh techniques had succeeded in securing valuable intelligence information.

CIA spokesman Paul Gimigliano said the request was turned down because the

documents are the subject of pending litigation, which makes them not subject to declassification. Pelosi has been the target of a campaign orchestrated in recent days by the House Republican leadership, which is eager to undercut her statements as well as stick Democrats with partial responsibility for the use of waterboarding — a kind of simulated drowning — in the Bush administration. Republican officials secured the release of an unclassified chart by the CIA that describes a total of 40 briefings for lawmakers over a period of several years. Pelosi’s name appears once, as having attended a session on Sept. 4, 2002, when she was the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. Former Rep. Porter Goss, a Republican who at the time was the chairman of the committee and later became CIA director, also was present.

The notation says the briefing was on “enhanced interrogation

techniques on Abu Zubaydah ... and a description of the particular EITs that had been employed.”

Little, responding to Pelosi for the CIA, said the chart “is true to the language in the agency’s records.” But he did not say whether the information was accurate.

Instead, he pointed to a recent letter from CIA Director Leon Panetta to lawmakers saying it would be up to Congress to determine whether notes made by agency personnel at the time they briefed lawmakers were accurate.

The CIA has said it could allow congressional staff to review the notes made by briefers who spoke with lawmakers. The chart specifically notes a discussion of waterboarding in 13 briefings between February 2003 and March 2009, most attended by Democrats as well as Republicans. Two Democrats, Sen. Jay Rockefeller and former Sen. Bob Graham, have challenged the accuracy of some of the CIA’s chart.

Pelosi’s decision to respond to her critics was something of a surprise, since most polls show Obama and his policies are popular, and Republicans have exhibited virtually nonstop political disarray in the six months since last November’s elections.

Pelosi renewed her call for a so-called truth commission to investigate the events in the Bush administration that led to the use of waterboarding and other harsh interrogation techniques. While President Barack Obama has banned waterboarding, calling it torture, he has been notably cool toward an independent inquiry that might distract attention from his domestic agenda.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, also has expressed opposition, as have congressional Republicans. Pelosi was unusually harsh in describing the CIA.

“They mislead us all the time,” she said. Asked whether the agency had lied, Pelosi said yes. Pelosi contended that Democrats did what they could to stop the use of waterboarding. The senior Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, who received the 2003 briefing on the practice, sent the CIA a formal letter of protest, she said. That was a reference to Rep. Jane Harman, a Democrat.

But Pelosi said her focus at the time was on winning control of Congress from the Republicans so her party could change course.

“No letter could change the policy. It was clear we had to change the leadership in Congress and in the White House. That was my job — the Congress part,” Pelosi said.

Rep. John Boehner, the Republican minority leader, said during the day that Democrats “want to have it both ways” on waterboarding by claiming they did not oppose it even though they criticize it.

Boehner also asked Obama in a recent White House meeting to release the CIA memos that describe the information gained through the use of waterboarding. Cheney says the documents show that the tactics prevented terrorist attacks and saved lives. □

Official’s pledge: no terrorists let go in U.S.

LARRY MARGASAK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration will not jeopardize Americans’ safety by releasing dangerous Guantanamo prisoners into their communities, Attorney General Eric Holder promised Thursday.

With the administration committed to closing the U.S. military prison in Cuba, Holder tried to assure nervous members of the House Judiciary Committee that safety is paramount in deciding what to do with the 241 prisoners.

Holder said detainees would have either a military or civilian trial, but acknowledged there may be cases in this country



where prosecutors could not win a conviction for a dangerous prisoner.

“We are not going to do anything that will endanger the American people,” Holder said. “If there were a sufficient basis to conclude they pose a danger to the United States we would not release them.”

Rep. Dan Lungren, a Republican, said that any detainees sent to the United States would claim they have full access to federal courts, which could order their release.

“You would take the position that they are a clear and present danger to the United States, but that would be subject to federal court review,” Lungren said.


Holder said a detainee’s lawyer would likely argue that the client had full rights under the U.S. Constitution, but added, “I’m not sure about that.”

Holder promised to work with Congress to devise a solution to the problem.

New legislation by Senate Democrats would fund the closure of the prison at Guantanamo, but it would block the transfer of any of the detainees to the United States.

President Barack Obama promised to close the Guantanamo facility within a year of taking office.

The administration requested \$50 million to close Guantanamo and transfer its detainees elsewhere. □




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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Continued from Page B1

The nonprofit group announced Thursday it received the largest individual contribution in its history, an offering that will help Habitat build 60,000 homes.

It's one of the largest gifts in recent years to a group devoted to social services, according to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. A center official called it "remarkable" — especially in the midst of a gloomy economy.

The donation comes from J. Ronald Terwilliger of Atlanta, a former chief executive of housing developer Trammell Crow Residential Co. and a longtime member of Habitat's board of directors.

Terwilliger said through his work with Habitat and in the private sector he's witnessed the depths of poverty, seeing people living in cardboard shacks and unspeakable filth, as well as the struggle for middle-class families to find affordable housing.

"People need a decent, safe, clean residence where they can get a good night's sleep and families can be together," he said.

"If they have that as an anchor, they have a way to send their kids off to school regularly and a better chance those children will be healthy."

The donation comes at a difficult time for the Georgia-based organization, which like other nonprofit groups has struggled with increasing demand and slowing donations amid the economic downturn.

"This is a chance to have a really deep impact," said Jonathan Reckford, Habitat's chief executive. "It's an unprecedented commitment that sets a new bar for what's possible, and it encourages other people to give."

Habitat will use \$30 million to fund an endowment that will make yearly grants to help build more houses.

The remaining \$70 million will set up a micro-finance fund to help low-income families around the world repair and improve their housing.

Dwight Burlingame, the Center on Philanthropy's associate executive director, said charitable contributions that top \$50 million tend to go to foundations, universities, hospitals and medical research. Gifts of that size to social

services groups like Habitat, he said, are rare.

"This is really quite exceptional," Burlingame said. "And it's especially exceptional in this economy."

The micro-finance fund will be the first of its kind for Habitat. Reckford said it will provide loans ranging from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars to some of the world's neediest.

Terwilliger, who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, became Trammell Crow's chief executive in 1986 and has long contributed to affordable housing projects. He also owns Atlanta's WNBA franchise, the Atlanta Dream.

He joined Habitat's board of directors in 2000 and was elected chairman in 2007.

After stepping down as Trammell Crow's chief executive last year he devoted more time to traveling the world to witness Habitat's work. He remains the company's chairman.

He called it a "moral imperative" to offer families more access to decent, affordable homes. And the short-term loan program he is helping to fund will make a lasting impression on the housing market by helping thousands of needy families, he said. □

Human-caused wildfires increase in California

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Embers drifting from a campfire in a canyon ignite a blaze that incinerates 53 homes in Malibu.

A man driving on a dirt road in a forest stops on a swath of dry grass, and the hot engine kindles a wildfire that burns thousands of acres.

And a fire that destroys 78 homes in the Santa Barbara area is believed to have been caused by sparks from a power tool being used to clear brush.

A growing number of wildfires in California have a common back-story: People caused them.

Government statistics show that people were faulted for 5,208 wildfires in Southern California in 2008, the highest number since at least 2001. Between 2006 and 2008, Southern California was the only region of the U.S. to see a significant jump in the



In this Thursday, May 7, 2009 file photo, a firefighter works to put out a spot fire near Santa Barbara, Calif. Between 2006 and 2008, Southern California was the only region of the U.S. to see a significant jump in the number of wildfires blamed on people.

Associated Press

number of wildfires blamed on people.

Among the explanations given by experts: a three-year-old dry spell in California, the building of homes deeper and deeper into the backcountry, and perhaps better investigation and reporting of fires.

"As the drought continues in California, there are going to be more human-caused fires," said Don Smurthwaite, a spokesman for the National

Interagency Fire Center in Idaho. "You can see the spread of development in virtually every area of the West," he added. "More people is always going to equate to more fires." Nationally, about 70,000 wildfires in 2008 were attributed to human causes — a thoughtlessly flicked cigarette, a campfire left smoldering, a fallen power line, and sometimes, outright arson. □

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WAR FUNDS

Continued from Page B1

Obama officially requested the IMF funding late Tuesday, and the request was immediately incorporated into the Senate version by Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye. The IMF funds would cost U.S. taxpayers about \$5 billion since the government is issued interest-bearing assets in return for the contribution. House Republicans oppose adding the IMF funds to the war-funding measure, and their votes will be needed to pass the final House-Senate compromise bill, given the opposition of anti-war Democrats.

As for the military spending, during the Bush administration many Democrats stressed their opposition to the war in Iraq while supporting efforts against al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan. But an increasing number of party liberals are skeptical of success in Afghanistan.

Chief among them is Rep. David Obey, a Democrat

and author of the House legislation as chairman of the Appropriations Committee. But for now he's giving Obama a chance to demonstrate greater progress in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"This is a bill that I have very little confidence in," Obey said. "I think we have a responsibility to give a new president — who did not get us into this mess — the best possible opportunity to get out of it." Rep. Jim McGovern, a Democrat, is opposing the infusion of war funds. He is not impressed with Obama's plans on Afghanistan.

"Sometimes great presidents make mistakes, and sometimes great presidents make even great mistakes. I hope that doesn't happen here," McGovern said. "As the mission has grown bigger, the policy has grown even more vague."

Both the House and Senate measures largely follow Obama's military request for the wars. But the House version adds \$11.8 billion,



Soldiers from the U.S. Army First Battalion, 26th Infantry take defensive positions at firebase Restrepo after receiving fire from Taliban positions in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar Province on Monday May 11, 2009. Spc. Zachery Boyd of Fort Worth, TX, far left was wearing 'I love NY' boxer shorts after rushing from his sleeping quarters to join his fellow platoon members. From far right is Spc. Cecil Montgomery of Many, LA and Jordan Custer of Spokane, WA, center.

Associated Press

including almost \$4 billion for new weapons and military equipment such as cargo planes, mine-resistant vehicles, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Stryker armored vehicles. The measure also adds \$2.2 billion to Obama's request for foreign aid — much of which appears to be designed to get around spending limits for 2010.

The \$91.3 billion Senate measure includes Obama's \$1.5 billion emergency request to fight a potential flu

pandemic, while the House would add about \$500 million to the request — even as the recent swine flu scare appears to be abating.

On Guantanamo, the Senate measure includes \$50 million to begin closing the prison but directs that it cannot be used to transfer any of the detainees into the United States. The House bill, which does not include such money, sets a policy forbidding release of Guantanamo detainees within

the United States. It would allow them to be shipped to the U.S. to stand trial or to serve their sentences.

The Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday voted unanimously in favor of its version of the spending bill. Most of that money, about \$73 billion, would go to the Defense Department to pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the extra 21,000 troops being sent to Afghanistan. □

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Obama to revive terror tribunals, with more rights

LARA JAKES

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama will restart Bush-era military tribunals for a small number of Guantanamo detainees, reviving a fiercely disputed trial system he once denounced but with new legal protections for terror suspects, U.S. officials said Thursday. Obama suspended the tribunals within hours of taking office in January, ordering a review but stopping short of abandoning President George W. Bush's strategy of prosecuting suspected terrorists.

The military trials will remain frozen for another four months as the administration adjusts the legal system that is expected to try fewer than 20 of the 241 detainees currently at the U.S. naval detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Thirteen detainees — including five charged with helping orchestrate the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks — are already in the tribunal

system.

The changes to the system were to be announced Friday. Two senior administration officials outlined several of the rules changes, which will be carried out by executive authority, to The Associated Press on Thursday night. They include:

—Restrictions on hearsay evidence that can be used in court against the detainees.

—A ban on all evidence obtained through cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. This would include statements given from detainees who were subjected to waterboarding.

—Giving detainees greater leeway in choosing their own military counsel.

—Protecting detainees who refuse to testify from legal sanctions or other court prejudices. The White House may seek additional changes to the military commissions law over the next 120 days, but it was not immediately clear Thursday what they could include. □

New Hampshire gov to sign changed gay wed bill

NORMA LOVE

Associated Press Writer

CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP) — New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch said Thursday he will sign a bill to make his state the sixth to legalize gay marriage, but only if lawmakers revise the legislation to offer more protection to churches opposed to the practice. Leaders in the state Senate and House of representatives immediately said they would back such changes.

Lynch asked that the already-approved legislation be revised to better protect churches and their employees against lawsuits if their beliefs preclude them from marrying gays. Gay marriage supporters said they do not object.

“Throughout history, our society’s views of civil rights have constantly evolved and expanded,” Lynch told reporters. “New Hampshire’s great tradition has always been to come down on the side of individual liberties and protections.”

Lynch said he personally opposes gay marriage, but decided to view the issue “through a broader lens.”

A gay marriage bill and companion legislation were adopted last week, but had yet to make it the governor’s desk for his signature making them law. Now, they will be held until the changes proposed by Lynch are approved, said Senate President Sylvia Larsen.

Larsen and House Speaker Terie Norelli predicted the Legislature would act quickly to adopt the changes, perhaps as early as next week.

The bill’s main sponsor, state Rep. Jim Splaine, said the bottom line is that Lynch supports marriage equality for gays.

Mo Baxley, executive director of New Hampshire Freedom to Marry Coalition, a group supporting gay marriage, approved of Lynch’s proposed changes.

“This is language we can support,” she said.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont also recognize same-sex marriage.

Lynch said he wanted the law modeled on Connecticut’s, which he said contains better protections than the proposal adopted by the New Hampshire Legislature. For example, Lynch wants to be sure an organist employed by a church opposed to gay marriage could legally refuse to perform at a gay wedding.

New Hampshire Republican Party Chairman John H. Sununu criticized Lynch, a Democrat, saying he was trying to have it both ways.

“Once again, Gov. Lynch has discovered a way to be against something and for it at the same time,” Sununu said.

Kevin Smith, executive director of gay marriage opponent Cornerstone Policy Research, said Lynch’s proposed changes are a disingenuous attempt to obscure the fact Lynch misled the public into believing he opposed same-sex marriage.

Separately, the Wisconsin



New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch at the State House in Concord, N.H., Thursday, May 14, 2009. New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch says he will sign a bill to make his state the sixth to legalize gay marriage, but only if legislators make some changes.

Associated Press

Supreme Court agreed Thursday to decide whether the state’s 2006 ban on gay marriage was properly put to voters.

The court will review a challenge claiming the referendum illegally put two issues to voters at the same time: whether to ban gay marriage and whether to outlaw civil unions.

A ruling striking down the constitutional amendment would not legalize same-sex marriage because state law still defines marriage as a union between husband and wife. However, it could pave the way for lawmakers to eventually allow it, or for advocates to file lawsuits seeking that right. □

Tornadoes kill three people in Missouri

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

Associated Press Writer

KIRKSVILLE, Missouri (AP) — Violent storms tore through four Midwestern states, killing three people in northern Missouri, damaging dozens of homes and leaving thousands without power.

Kirksville apparently took the hardest hit Wednesday night. Police Detective Sgt. Ron Celian said about 30 to 40 homes were damaged, one was destroyed and an auto dealership on the northern edge of town sustained significant damage, shattering windows and flipping cars across the dealer’s lot.

“It just tore everything up,” said Don Williams, who rode out the storm in his basement with his wife and four children. “It was just a blur. Insulation and trees blowing everywhere. I could see stuff just flying through my house.”

Emergency Management director Rick Gardner said a woman was killed Wednesday night when what appeared to be a tornado struck a mobile home.

Two other people died in a neighboring county, said coroner Brian Noe.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Sgt. Brent Bernhardt said in some places the tornado was only 500 feet wide.

“It was not wide,” Bernhardt said. “It would be on the ground and then come back up and be on the ground again.”

In northeast Oklahoma, a 100 mph wind gust was recorded. The high winds downed trees and power lines, with 8,000 power outages reported at one point.

Central Indiana saw wind gusts of up to 60 mph leaving some 8,000 without power in and around Indianapolis early Thursday, authorities said. □

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In this image provided Thursday, May 14, 2009 by the U.S. Navy, members of a specialized boarding team from the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg and U.S. Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team South, Detachment 409, capture suspected pirates in the Combined Maritime Forces area of responsibility in the Gulf of Aden Wednesday, May 13, 2009.

Associated Press

BARBARA SURK

Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A team of specialized American sailors apprehended 17 suspected pirates who attacked an Egyptian merchant ship in the dangerous waters off Yemen, the U.S. Navy said Thursday.

The sailors from the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg also seized eight assault rifles and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher when they boarded the pirates' vessel Wednesday in the Gulf of Aden, said the Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet.

U.S. Navy detains 17 suspected pirates off the coast of Yemen

The Gettysburg launched the operation with the help of the Korean Destroyer ROKS Munmu the Great after the pirates fired at the Egyptian-flagged Motor Vessel Amira about 75 miles south of Yemen's al-Mukalla port, the Navy said. Both ships dispatched helicopters during the mission.

The Gulf of Aden is one of the world's most important shipping lanes, connecting Europe and Asia via the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. It is used by 20,000 ships a year and has become the world's hot spot for pirate attacks.

The 17 pirates seized were taken aboard the Gettysburg for further questioning, said the Navy. They were operating from a "mothership" — a larger vessel pirates often

use to resupply the small speedboats that attack ships far offshore. The Navy did not say what happened to the mothership after the operation.

Also Thursday, Iranian state television said the country will send two warships to join an international flotilla protecting cargo ships from pirates off the Somali coast.

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad Khazaei, made the commitment in a letter he sent to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday, according to a report on the Web site of Iran's press TV.

The ships will leave within the next two days for a five-month assignment and will join vessels from the U.S., Denmark, Italy, Russia, China

and other countries.

Somali pirates have significantly stepped up their attacks in recent years. They hijacked a cargo ship operated by Iran off the Somali coast in November, the second in the past six months.

At least 19 ships and over 250 sailors are now being held hostage by Somali pirates. Last year, 42 ships were seized and pirates earned an estimated \$1 million or more in ransom each time they freed a ship. The pirates operate freely because Somalia has had no effective central government in nearly 20 years. Nearly every public institution has crumbled, and the U.N.-backed government controls only limited territory and is fighting an Islamic insurgency. □



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	daily: 5:50			
	matinee: 1:45	3:50	late show:	
R	MY BLOODY VALENTINE			
	daily: 8:00	10:10	late show: 12:00	
	matinee:			
PG-13	OBSESSED			
	daily: 5:25	7:45	10:05	
	matinee: 12:45	3:05	late show: 12:25	
PG-13	STAR TREK XI			
	daily: 7:00	9:30		
	matinee: 1:40	4:20	late show: 12:10	
PG-13	GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST			
	daily: 4:50			
	matinee: 12:10	2:25	late show:	
PG-13	STATE OF PLAY			NEW
	daily: 7:15	9:45		
	matinee:		late show: 12:15	
PG-13	X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE			
	daily: 5:15	7:30	9:50	
	matinee: 12:30	2:55	late show: 12:20	
PG-13	ANGELS & DEMONS			NEW
	daily: 6:10	9:00		
	matinee: 12:20	3:15	late show: 11:50	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	OBSESSED			
	daily: 5:30	7:45	10:00	
	matinee: 12:50	3:10	late show: 12:20	
PG-13	STAR TREK XI			
	daily: 4:00	6:40	9:15	
	matinee: 1:25		late show: 11:50	
PG-13	GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST			
	daily: 4:50	7:15	9:35	
	matinee: 12:00	2:30	late show: 12:05	
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PG-13	ANGELS & DEMONS			NEW
	daily: 5:40	8:30		
	matinee: 12:00	2:50	late show: 11:20	

Netanyahu urges pope to condemn Iranian threats

VICTOR L. SIMPSON

Associated Press Writer

NAZARETH, Israel (AP)

— Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appealed to Pope Benedict XVI to “make his voice heard loud” against Iran’s call for the destruction of the Jewish state. But his focus on Iran did not mask a key difference with the pontiff over whether Palestinians deserve a state of their own.

The two men met a day after the pope made a powerful call for Palestinian statehood, a concept that Netanyahu has refused to endorse. They held 15 minutes of face-to-face talks, which the Vatican said “centered on how the peace process can be advanced.”

But in televised remarks following the talks, Netanyahu did not mention the Palestinian issue, focusing instead on Iran.

“I asked him, as a moral figure, to make his voice heard loud and continuously against the declarations coming from Iran of their intention to destroy Israel,” Netanyahu said of his talks with the pope.

“I told him it cannot be that at the beginning of the 21st century, there is a state which says it is going to destroy the Jewish state, and there is no aggressive voice being heard condemning this,” the Israeli leader told Israel TV.

He said Benedict said “he

condemns all such things, anti-Semitism, hate,” adding: “I think we found in him an attentive ear.”

While Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called for Israel’s elimination, his exact remarks have been disputed, with some translators saying he called for Israel to be “wiped off the map.” Others say a better translation would be “vanish from the pages of time” — implying Israel would disappear on its own rather than be destroyed.

Since taking office on March 31, Netanyahu has emphasized the Iranian threat in an apparent attempt to put the Palestinian question on the back burner.

Unlike previous governments, Netanyahu’s has refused to endorse the two-state formula, potentially putting him on a collision course with President Barack Obama. The two will meet in Washington next week.

The Israeli leader called his meeting with Benedict “very good and important,” noting that the pope heads a church of 1 billion followers, and Israel wants good relations with them.

“Secondly, we spoke also about the historic process of reconciliation between Christianity and Judaism. and the pope is very interested,” Netanyahu said.

The pope’s ventures into diplomacy reflected what Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi called the focus of his Middle East pilgrimage — “peace, peace, peace.” He said the pope could be a “bridge” among the various positions.

The Vatican has been active on the Middle East diplomatic front, seeking to protect Christians in the Holy Land and elsewhere in the region, while supporting a solution to the Israel-Palestinian dispute through creation of a Palestinian state and security for Israel. From Israel’s creation in 1948, the Jewish state and the Vatican had no formal relations until Pope John Paul II forged official ties in 1993, giving the Vatican a larger voice in Mideast diplomacy.

Charging headlong into the touchiest Mideast political issues on his Holy Land pilgrimage, Benedict has criticized Israel’s security barrier, a network of concrete and barbed wire along the West Bank built to keep out Palestinian attackers. He urged Palestinians to renounce terrorism, while pressing both sides to find the courage to achieve peace.

Vatican officials also met with Israelis to discuss bilateral issues, including travel privileges for Arab Christian clergy, Lombardi said. The



In this photo released by the Israeli Government Press Office, Pope Benedict XVI and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meet in Nazareth, northern Israel, Thursday, May 14, 2009. The meeting came a day after the pope made an emotional appeal in the West Bank for the establishment of an independent Palestinian homeland, a concept the Israeli leader has refused to endorse. The men appeared to exchange pleasantries before reporters were ushered out of the room to allow them to speak privately. Ahead of the meeting, Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said the meeting would be key because “personal contact is always very important.”

Associated Press

Vatican has asked Israel to allow 500 priests from Arab countries to receive visas to enter Israel at will. Interior Minister Eli Yishai refused the request on security grounds, a spokesman said, but Netanyahu pledged to re-examine the matter.

At an inter-religious meeting after the pope met Netanyahu, Rabbi David Rosen took the normally shy Benedict’s hand as he joined others in singing “Lord Grant Us Peace, Shalom, Saalam” — peace in Hebrew and Arabic. □

Bangladesh arrests over 500 suspected mutineers

FARID HOSSAIN

Associated Press Writer

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Police said Thursday they arrested 526 border guards from across Bangladesh for suspected involvement in a mutiny over pay and working conditions that left more than 70 people dead three months ago.

About 100 suspected mutineers were arrested Wednesday and 426 on Thursday, police officials involved in the crackdown said. The officials, who declined to provide further details, cannot be identified because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The Feb. 25-26 insurrection, reportedly sparked by a dispute over pay and working conditions, shook the newly elected government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and created tensions between it and the influential military, which

was unhappy with her handling of the revolt.

Of the 74 people killed, 57 were army commanders in charge of the border force, called the Bangladesh Rifles.

Authorities say more than 800 suspected mutineers were earlier arrested and jailed pending trial. Many others reportedly went into hiding.

The mutiny ended through negotiations, with offers of an amnesty followed by a show of military force. But when dozens of bodies were discovered in mass graves and sewers in the sprawling compound, the government withdrew the amnesty offer.

The government appointed two committees — one headed by the military and another by the Home Ministry — to investigate the revolt. Agents from the FBI and Britain’s Scotland Yard also helped the investigators. □

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In this photo taken on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 and released on Thursday, May 14 by the Myanmar News Agency, American John William Yettaw, center, is shown speaking with U.S. diplomats and Myanmar officials in Yangon. Yettaw has been arrested for swimming across a lake and entering the home of detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi last week. Suu Kyi was charged Thursday, May 14, 2009, with violating the terms of her house arrest after the American man swam across a lake to sneak into her home, her lawyer said.

Associated Press

OPPOSITION LEADER Continued from Page B1

The charges follow a mysterious visit to her home by John William Yettaw, 53, an American who swam across a lake and sneaked into her home seeking food and a place to rest.

Suu Kyi, who was scheduled to be freed May 27 after six years of house arrest, now faces up to five years in prison if convicted of violating the terms of her detention, said lawyer Hla Myo Myint. The trial of the Nobel Peace laureate is scheduled to start Monday at a special court at Yangon's notorious Insein Prison, where she was arraigned and then held Thursday.

"It is nothing more than a political ploy to hoodwink the international community so that it can keep (Suu Kyi)

under lock and key while the military maneuvers its way to election victory on 2010," said a statement from the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma.

The coalition describes itself as the country's government-in-exile and has links to Suu Kyi's party. Burma is the old name for Myanmar and preferred by the military regime's opponents.

Foreign leaders, including Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, condemned the charges and called for her release.

"If the 2010 elections are to have any semblance of credibility, she and all political prisoners must be freed to participate," British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said. In the past the junta — which regards Suu Kyi as the biggest

threat to its rule — has found other reasons to extend her periods of house arrest, bending the letter of the law. Suu Kyi, 63, has already spent more than 13 of the last 19 years in detention without trial for her nonviolent promotion of democracy, despite international pressure for her release.

Early Thursday morning, armed police drove Suu Kyi and two women who live with her to Insein Prison. The women, assistants loyal to her political party who have lived with her since she was detained in 2003, were charged with the same offense, lawyers said.

The junta scheduled elections as part of its so-called "roadmap to democracy," but the effort is widely perceived as a guise for continued military control.

Parliamentary rule was overthrown by a coup in 1962, and the army has been in control since then. It held an election in 1990 but refused to honor the results after Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won in a landslide.

The party announced two weeks ago that it would

consider taking part in next year's polls if the country's military rulers meet three demands, including Suu Kyi's release. While it has not ruled out participating even if the demands were not met, further action against Suu Kyi heightens the prospect of an election boycott.

Many of Suu Kyi's supporters were furious at the man who triggered the charge and faces criminal charges himself.

"Everyone is very angry with this wretched American. He is the cause of all these problems," Suu Kyi's lawyer, Kyi Win, told reporters. "He's a fool."

Yettaw was arrested last week for allegedly swimming across a lake to secretly enter Suu Kyi's home and staying there for two days. His motives remain unclear.

An Asian diplomat briefed on the case Thursday said Yettaw told the government he had gone there to pray.

"But the government doesn't seem to believe him," said the diplomat, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

Yettaw's ex-wife, Yvonne, said

he is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, popularly known as the Mormons, but she was aware of no connection between his faith and his activities in Myanmar.

Yvonne Yettaw, speaking from Palm Springs, California, told The Associated Press that her ex-husband lived on veteran's disability benefits, supplemented by occasional construction work. She said he had been working on a psychology paper about forgiveness after trauma, and went to Southeast Asia for research on that, though he was "real secretive" about his journey.

"I wasn't told why he was going, what he was going to do," she said, noting that he left four children, ages 10 through 17, home under the supervision of neighbors in his home state of Missouri. She said that when he left the U.S. in April, he told her she would know in two weeks "whether I'm coming back when I'm supposed to come back."

"I think there was a possibility that he could get in trouble," she said. □

Spanish study shows cocaine in the air in Madrid, Barcelona

CIARAN GILES

Associated Press Writer

MADRID (AP) — Air pollution has long been a fact of life in Spanish cities, but scientists now say it is not just smog that chokes people as they walk to work or stroll through the park. A new study has found the air in Madrid and Barcelona is also laced with at least five drugs — most prominently cocaine.

The Superior Council of Scientific Investigations, a government scientific institute, said on its Web site Thursday that in addition to cocaine, they found trace amounts of amphetamines, opiates, cannabinoids and lysergic acid — a relative of LSD — in two air-quality control stations, one in each city.

The group said the findings would be published in the U.S. journal *Analytical Chemistry*.

Despite the findings, the council said there was no reason for alarm.

"Not even if we lived for a thousand years would we consume the equivalent of a dose of cocaine by breathing this air," scientist Miren Lopez de Alda said in a statement.

The scientific group stressed that "in no case should these levels be considered representative of the air in the two cities." It said the tests were done in areas where drugs were likely to be consumed.

In Madrid, the test site was close to a ruined building believed to be frequented by drug dealers. And in both Madrid and Barcelona, the studies were carried out close to universities.

The group said the study showed higher concentrations of the components on weekends, suggesting that drug consumption was up in these periods.

The research found cocaine in concentrations ranging between 29 and 850 picograms per cubic meter of air. A picogram is one-trillionth of a gram.

Mar Viana, another researcher who worked on the project, said the levels were far higher than those found in similar studies in Europe.

A similar study in Italy found traces of cocaine and cannabis in the air in Rome and Taranto in the south. Italy's National Research Council reported in May 2007 that the maximum concentration of cocaine in Rome was 100 picograms per cubic meter of air — it said that was a fifth the legal limit for toxic substances in air — but that even this small amount was reason for concern.

According to the U.S. State Department, Spain is Europe's largest consumer of cocaine and hashish. It is also a major transit point for narcotics shipments from South and Central America as well as Africa. □

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Outrage in Kenya over sentence for white landowner

KATHARINE HOURELD

Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)

— In a case that stirred fierce resentments over race and land, a Kenyan judge sentenced the son of a baron to eight months in prison for killing a black poacher on his vast family estate.

The sentence handed down Thursday to Thomas Cholmondeley — a fraction of the possible life in prison he faced — provoked shouts of protest from Maasai tribesmen and sighs of relief from white landowners, both of whom packed into the crowded courtroom.

Judge Muga Apondi last week convicted Cholmondeley of manslaughter in the 2006 shooting of a 37-year-old black poacher, Robert Njoya. The judge had reduced the charge down from murder, saying he believed Cholmondeley's attempts to give Njoya first aid helped prove that he accidentally shot the poacher when aiming at his dogs.

On Thursday, the judge said he took the three years Cholmondeley had already served into account, concluding, "I hereby wish to impose a light sentence on the accused to allow him to reflect on his life."

Cholmondeley's parents, Lord and Lady Delamere, listened to the verdict along with Sarah Njoya, the widow of the dead poacher, and traditionally dressed Maasai activists whose elongated earlobes brushed the traditional red-checked blankets they wore.

The sentence provoked immediate protests from the public gallery, where women wrapped in colorful cloths wearing traditional beaded jewelry waved signs depicting guns and dead bodies.

"We want justice," read one.

The tall, bespectacled Cholmondeley, who has been imprisoned in squalid conditions since his arrest in May 2006, will return to the maximum security prison, defense lawyer Fred Ojiambo said.

The prosecution said it would consider appealing the sentence, which Ojiambo described as "very just."

Njoya's death was the second time in just over a year that Cholmondeley had shot and killed a black man on his largely ungated farm. The first shooting did not come to trial, sparking protests from locals who said there had been high-level government intervention in the case.

Grievances raised by the case reach far beyond the Cholmondeley family. Some Kenyans resent all white farmers as symbols of the British colonists who stole land from local tribes.



Masai protesters hold signs inside the Nairobi High court after Thomas Cholmondeley was sentenced, Thursday, May 14, 2009. The descendant of Kenya's most famous white settlers Thomas Cholmondeley was sentenced to eight months in prison for the shooting to death of a black man on his vast estate, a seemingly lenient sentence which is not expected to quell the simmering tensions over race and land in Kenya.

Associated Press

After independence in 1963, Britain funded a scheme to transfer some of that land into African hands. Most of the land, however, was taken by powerful local politicians, forcing the original inhabitants to disperse to other, already crowded areas.

That injustice still rankles — and it contributed to bloody tribal clashes sparked by Kenya's disputed 2007 election, when politicians resurrected the issue to mobilize their supporters against political rivals. Over 1,000 people were killed, many of them slum dwellers hacked or bludgeoned to death in the lake-studded Rift Valley where the Cholmondeley estate lies.

"This court understands the undercurrents (of the case), but I believe the executive is dealing with the issues of land," Apondi said in court, referring to both the postelection violence and protests following the first shooting on the Cholmondeley estate. Njoya's impoverished widow, who has four children, said she was planning to file a civil suit against the family after consulting her lawyers. Currently, she said she is earning around \$2 a day for farm work.

"I am still struggling to survive," Sarah Njoya said from the battered public minibus taking her home. "I just want a future for my children."



Chefs, wearing face masks as a precaution against swine flu, prepare pork rinds during a meal offered by the Mexico's Agriculture Secretary in Mexico City, Thursday, May 14, 2009. Mexico launched a campaign to encourage its citizens to eat pork after sales plummeted during the swine flu outbreak.

Associated Press

Mexico officials pig out on pork to ease flu fears

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican officials are going hog-wild over pork to encourage their countrymen to put the pig back in the taco.

Two hundred government employees downed heaps of pork rinds and fried, tortilla-wrapped meat Thursday at a Labor Department garden party. Waiters in black vests, white collars and blue surgical masks served the lunching workers as they chatted underneath white tents to the soothing tunes of jazz music.

The pork party was part of an Agriculture Department publicity campaign to convince Mexicans it's safe to eat the meat despite swine flu fears.

Although experts say the virus isn't transmitted through meat, plummeting sales have cost the pork industry 2.5 billion pesos (\$188 million) since the outbreak, according to the Mexican Confederation of Pork Farmers.

Labor Secretary Javier Lozano said the pig-out was held to demonstrate to "Mexico and the world that it is perfectly safe and very delicious and nutritious to eat pork."

Several countries including China, Russia and Ukraine banned Mexican pork products after the swine flu outbreak.

Introduced by Spanish conquerors, pork is widely popular here and the main ingredient in traditional dishes such as tacos al pastor, a greasy, spit-roasted snack found on street corners everywhere, and pozole, a hominy and pork stew. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NHL Playoffs

Red Rocked: Penguins beat Caps 6-2 in Game 7

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sidney Crosby scored twice to take his NHL-leading playoff goal total to 12, and Pittsburgh shut down Alex Ovechkin most of the night as the Penguins downed the Washington Capitals 6-2 in Game 7 to win their NHL second-round series 4-3 on Wednesday.

Pittsburgh's series victory, after trailing 2-0, moves it closer to a second consecutive trip to the Stanley Cup finals, something the team last did in 1991 and 1992.

Everyone chipped in for the Penguins, from regular-season scoring leader Evgeni Malkin's two assists, to fourth-line forward Craig Adams' first goal in 42 career postseason games. Second-year defenseman



Pittsburgh Penguins' Marc-Andre Fleury, center, facing camera, celebrates with teammates, including Evgeni Malkin (71), from Russia; Brooks Orpik (44); Sergei Gonchar, right, of Russia; and Craig Adams (27) after the Penguins beat the Washington Capitals 6-2 in Game 7 of an NHL hockey second-round playoff series, Wednesday, May 13, 2009, in Washington.

Associated Press

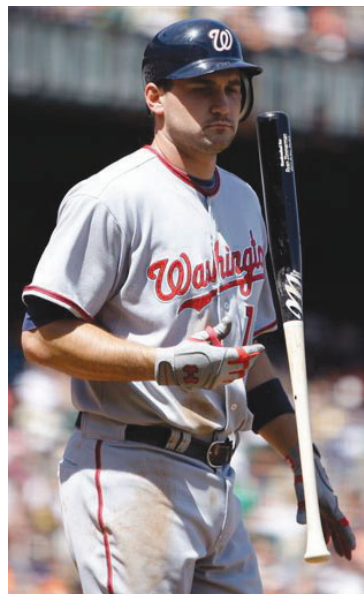
Kris Letang, 38-year-old Bill Guerin and Jordan Staal scored, too. Marc-Andre Fleury made 19 saves and didn't allow a goal until his team led 5-0.

The Penguins will face the Boston Bruins or Carolina Hurricanes in the Eastern Conference finals.

They play their second-round Game 7 at Boston on Thursday.

The NHL boasted that it's the first time since 2001 that three conference semifinals went the distance, and the league, its TV partners and fans had to be excited about the potential drama on tap Wednesday. In addition to all of the big names on the ice, there was this: Five of the series' first six games were decided by one goal — and three went to overtime.

Continued on Page B12



Washington Nationals' Ryan Zimmerman flips his bat after being walked by San Francisco Giants' Barry Zito during the seventh inning of a baseball game Wednesday, May 13, 2009, in San Francisco. Zimmerman's 30-game hitting streak ended when he went 0 for 3 with two walks.

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Los Angeles pitcher Randy Wolf dominated his former

NL Roundup

Dodgers' Wolf wins over his old Phillies

team as the Dodgers beat the Philadelphia Phillies 9-2 in the National League on Wednesday.

In a meeting of the league-leading Dodgers and the reigning World Series champions, James Loney homered and drove in four runs for Los Angeles.

Wolf allowed just one run, striking out eight in six sharp innings in his second career start against the Phillies. Wolf spent his first eight years in Philadelphia, leaving after the 2006 season.

The Phillies got another poor outing from 46-year-old Jamie Moyer, who still needs one victory to become the oldest pitcher to 250 wins.

Brewers 8, Marlins 6

In Milwaukee, Rickie Weeks homered for the third straight game to help Milwaukee notch

a comeback win over Florida.

The Brewers benefited from an umpires' video replay reversal. Marlins pinch-hitter Ross Gload apparently hit a two-run homer down the right-field line that would've cut Milwaukee's lead to 8-7.

But umpires reversed the initial call after viewing the video replay, the first reversal at Miller Park since baseball adopted the system late last August.

Braves 8, Mets 7, 12 innings

In New York, Martin Prado homered in the 12th inning and Atlanta beat New York after wasting three leads.

The Mets stranded the potential tying run at third in the 12th. With Jose Reyes at third, Carlos Beltran struck out and Gary Sheffield took a called third strike.

Pirates 5, Cardinals 2

In Pittsburgh, Adam LaRoche became the first player to have a home run taken away by video replay, but it didn't prevent last-placed Pittsburgh beating St. Louis.

The Pirates had lost eight in a row before successive wins over the Cardinals, who have lost five straight.

Pirates pitcher Rick Ohlendorf mostly cruised against the Cardinals, giving up only one run over six innings.

In Phoenix, Brandon Phillips drove in four runs as Cincinnati completed a three-game sweep in Arizona.

The Reds won for the sixth time in seven games to climb a season-best six games above .500 and into a share of the NL Central Division lead.

Cincinnati improved to 13-5 on the road, best in the majors.

In Chicago, Alfonso Soriano hit his 53rd career leadoff homer as Chicago beat San Diego in a rain-shortened game.

Soriano moved into a tie for second place on the all-time list with Craig Biggio.

The game was stopped following a 58-minute delay before the bottom of the eighth after a barrage of lightning and rain. It also started 37 minutes late and was interrupted after the fifth inning.

In other NL games it was Atlanta 8, N.Y. Mets 7, 12 innings; Washington 6, San Francisco 3; Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 2; L.A. Dodgers 9, Philadelphia 2; Chicago Cubs 6, San Diego 4 innings; Milwaukee 8, Florida 6; Houston 15, Colorado 11; and Cincinnati 10, Arizona 3.

NBA Playoffs

Melo, Big Shot lead Nuggets into Western Conference finals

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 30 points and Chauncey Billups had 28 as the Denver Nuggets beat the Dallas Mavericks 124-110 on Wednesday night to wrap up their semifinal series in five feisty games.

The Nuggets, heading to their first Western Conference finals since 1985, will face either Los Angeles or Houston for the conference championship. "It's special. We worked hard in the offseason and training camp and throughout," Anthony said. "We stuck to everything, we overcame adversity, we stayed humble and our hard work paid off.

Winners of 16 straight games at the Pepsi Center, where no opponent has won since March 9, the Nuggets would start their next series on the road if the Lakers win, and at home if Houston does. The Lakers lead the series 3-2 with Game 6 Thursday night in Houston.

The Nuggets, who are 8-2

in the playoffs after tying their franchise record with a 54-win regular season, didn't dare dream of this type of success when the season began in November following the departures of defensive stalwarts Marcus Camby and Eduardo Najera.

Then came the biggest trade in team history, Allen Iverson to Detroit for Billups, who turned his hometown team from an afterthought into a championship contender after leading the Pistons to six straight Eastern Conference finals and the NBA championship in 2004.

Fired up from the ugliness on and off the court in Dallas in Games 3 and 4, the Nuggets came out in front of their home crowd with a passion and shot 64

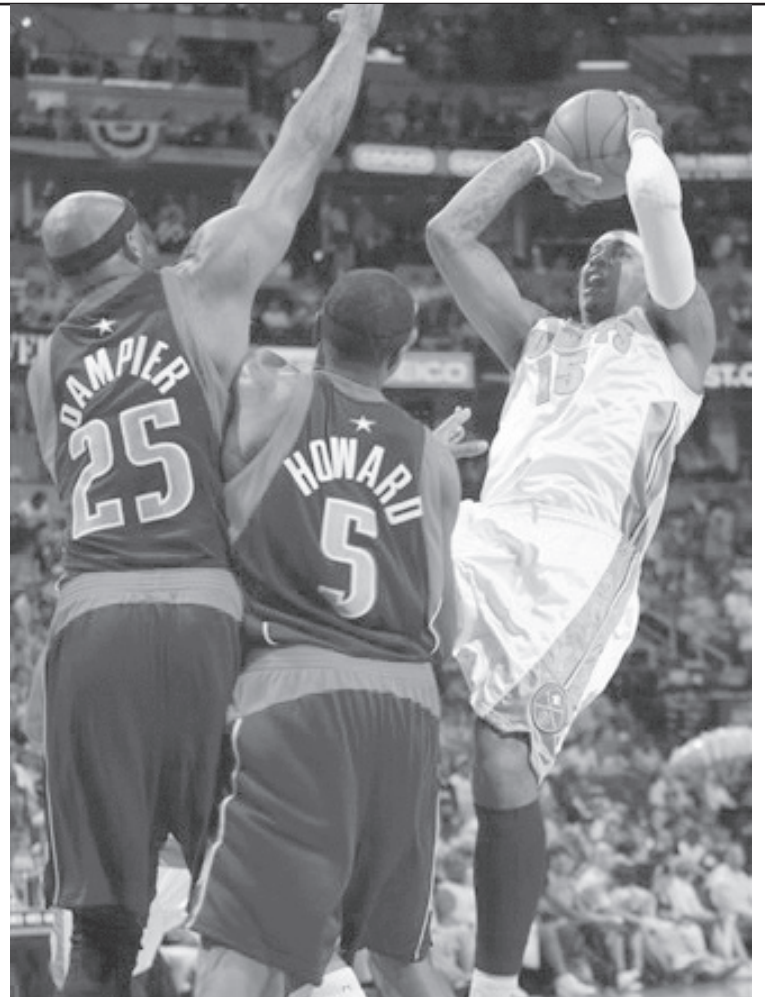
percent in the first half while building a 69-55 lead.

The Mavericks wouldn't go down easily, though, making five straight 3-pointers, three by Jason Kidd, to pull within 79-72.

The Mavericks were within 103-97 with 7 minutes left but Anthony took the inbounds pass and with 2 seconds on the shot clock, hit a turnaround 25-foot jumper at the buzzer. Antoine Wright was assessed a technical and Billups' free throw made it a 10-point game with 6:35 left.

The Mavs didn't have another run in them, and their season ground to a halt much sooner than they expected after dispatching San Antonio in five games in the first round.

Dirk Nowitzki had his usual



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, right, falls back to make a shot over Dallas Mavericks center Erick Dampier, front left, and guard Josh Howard in the third quarter of the Nuggets' 124-110 victory in Game 5 of an NBA Western Conference semifinal in Denver on Wednesday, May 13, 2009. The Nuggets advance to the Western Conference finals for the first time since 1985.

Associated Press

monster game, scoring 32 in the series — and Kidd points — he averaged 34.4 added 19.□

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Murray beats Robredo at Madrid Open

MADRID (AP) — Defending champion Andy Murray won through to the quarterfinals of the Madrid Open on Thursday by beating Tommy Robredo of Spain 7-5, 6-1, while top-ranked Rafael Nadal also advanced after his opponent retired hurt.

Second-seeded Roger Federer also made it to the quarters by beating 14th-seeded James Blake of the United States 6-2, 6-4.

The last time the two met, in China, Blake ended Federer's hopes of capturing his first Olympic singles medal.

"We haven't played since the Olympics and I was pleased with the way it went today, especially with him playing so well recently," Federer said.

Andy Roddick also advanced to the quarterfinals after Nikolay Davydenko pulled out due to a leg injury and Federer will meet the sixth-seeded American next.

"I've played Andy so many times it's time we played each



Britain's Andy Murray reacts during his match against Tommy Robredo from Spain at the Madrid Open Tennis in the Caja Magica, Madrid, Thursday May 14, 2009.

Associated Press

other on clay," Federer said of his next opponent.

Murray had failed to convert seven break points before finally getting the decisive breakthrough to go up 6-5 and then held serve to take the first set.

"I was a little tense when I had my chances and didn't take them," Murray said.

Murray, who turns 22 on Friday, then began hitting

long, accurate baseline shots and well-timed passers to dominate the second.

"I noticed that at this altitude the ball tends to fly faster, and because the court is sprayed with water regularly the balls also tend to pick up weight," Murray said. "I strung my rackets more tightly to compensate and was happy to be able to control the ball in the wind here."

The 16th-seeded Robredo said he simply couldn't recover after giving up an early break in the second set.

"If you don't take your chances when you've got them, then he's going to kill you," Robredo said. "When you attack him he defends well, and if you let him attack he really does it."

Third-seeded Novak Djokovic won against Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-4, 6-4.

In the third round of the women's event, No. 1 player Dinara Safina of Russia played aggressively to win the first set against Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic to love.

But Safina's concentration level then dropped and she lost the second 4-6 before sealing the match 6-3 in the third.

"Suddenly I started to play passively, even fearing the way the wind changed," Safina said. "Thankfully Safarova made some mistakes which let me win."

Meanwhile, Agnes Szavay

of Hungary rallied to beat seventh-seeded Victoria Azarenka 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, while earlier, Alona Bondarenko of Ukraine defeated Anna Chakvetadze of Russia, 6-0, 2-6, 6-3. □



NHL PLAYOFF

Continued from Page B10

Nothing of the sort this time, in part because Pittsburgh scored goals 8 seconds apart in the first period. And just kept on scoring.

Participating in his first Game 7 at any level, Crosby put the visitors ahead 1-0 with a power-play goal after about 7 1/2 minutes from his favorite spot on the ice: the net's doorstep. He added something of a finishing touch with another power-play goal in the third period, stealing the puck from his rival, Ovechkin, before beating Simeon Varlamov's replacement, Jose Theodore.

Pittsburgh was on the man-advantage there because Brooks Laich was called for a 4-minute high-sticking penalty after sending Crosby crumbling to the ice. Clearly, though, Crosby was well enough to make it 6-1.

Much earlier in the evening, back when the game was scoreless, a pass came his way from Sergei Gonchar. Crosby kicked the puck to himself with his right skate and then flipped it home with his stick. Gonchar was back in his usual role of running the point for Pittsburgh after missing most of Game 4 and all of Games 5 and 6 with a knee injury after a hit by Ovechkin. □



Italy's Michele Scarponi raises his arms as he crosses the finish line to win the sixth stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Bressanone to Mayrhofen, Austria, Thursday, May 14, 2009.

Associated Press

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

MAYRHOFEN IM
ZILLERTAL, Austria (AP)

Scarponi wins 6th stage of Giro

— Michele Scarponi won the sixth stage of the Giro d'Italia after a long breakaway Thursday as the race crossed into Austria.

Daniilo Di Luca held on to the overall leader's pink jersey, while Lance Armstrong again lost time — crossing 1:15 behind. Scarponi, an Italian rider with the Diquigiovanni team, covered the lengthy 248-kilometer (154-mile) leg in 5 hours, 49 minutes, 55 seconds.

Edvald Boasson Hagen of Norway finished second, 32 seconds behind, and Allan Davis of Australia was third, also 32 seconds back.

All of the race favorites — including Di Luca, Ivan Basso and Levi Leipheimer —

finished with the main pack, 36 seconds after Scarponi.

The stage began in Bressanone, Italy, and covered two climbs before a technical downhill section and a fast finish through a tight circuit under bright sunshine.

Scarponi and four other riders attacked at the 55-kilometer (34-mile) mark and the Italian left behind his last breakaway companion — Vasil Kiryienka of Belarus — with five kilometers (3.1 miles) remaining.

"Yesterday I lost all my chances for (overall victory), so I wanted to try to attack today to make amends," Scarponi said. "Kiryienka was a big help. I couldn't have made it without him."

Scarponi returned this season after an 18-month ban for involvement in the Spanish doping scandal Operation Puerto. He won the weeklong Tirreno-Adriatico race in March. Di Luca maintained a five-second lead over Sweden's Thomas Lovkvist in the overall standings. Lovkvist's Team Columbia-High Road teammate Michael Rogers is third, 36 seconds behind. The top 10 overall positions were unchanged from Wednesday.

"Today was harder than it looked," Di Luca said. "What Scarponi did was impressive. We didn't have any interest in chasing him down. We only wanted to defend the pink jersey today." □

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Juicio precipita relevo en Corte Suprema boliviana

LA PAZ (Reuters) - Una mujer asumió por primera vez el jueves la presidencia de la Corte Suprema de Bolivia, con la promesa de acelerar juicios de gran notoriedad, horas después de que la Cámara de Diputados suspendiera al jefe del tribunal para juzgarlo por supuesta retardación de justicia.

La magistrada Beatriz Sandoval, hasta ahora decana de la Corte, se hizo cargo del máximo órgano de la justicia boliviana y, en su primera actuación, dio paso a una audiencia en la que se ratificó para el venidero lunes 18 la apertura de un juicio de responsabilidades al ex presidente Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada.

“Los procesos (pendientes), que son alrededor de 7.000, se tramitarán de forma normal, todo continúa igual, incluido el juicio de responsabilidades”, dijo Sandoval en la ciudad sureña de Sucre, donde tiene sede la Suprema, según fue citada por medios locales.

La Cámara baja, dominada por el oficialismo, aprobó en la madrugada del jueves una acusación contra el hasta



Foto de archivo del ex presidente de Bolivia, Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, agosto 2002. La Cámara de Diputados de Bolivia suspendió al jefe de la Corte Suprema al acusarlo de retrasar un juicio contra el ex presidente Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada y algunos de sus colaboradores, cuyos procesos han generado tensiones diplomáticas con Estados Unidos y Perú. REUTERS/David Mercado/Archivo

entonces presidente de la Corte Suprema, Eddy Fernández, por supuestamente demorar sin sustento legal procesos como el juicio por genocidio y delitos económicos contra Sánchez de Lozada y sus ministros.

La resolución de los diputados, que implicó la suspensión inmediata del acusado, fue aprobada en medio de un duro cruce diplomático entre los gobiernos de La Paz y Lima por la decisión peruana de dar asilo político a tres de los ex ministros bolivianos incluidos en el juicio a Sánchez de Lozada.

El ex presidente, varios de sus ministros y ex jefes militares están acusados por una masacre ocurrida durante violentas protestas sociales de octubre del 2003, que provocaron la

caída del Gobierno neoliberal de esa época.

“Han pasado seis años desde los hechos ocurridos en octubre de 2003 en El Alto donde murieron 67 personas y hasta la fecha Fernández no agilizó la demanda contra Sánchez de Lozada y sus ex ministros, permitió la fuga de Luis Alberto ‘Chito’ Valle y no procesó a Tonchi Marinkovic”, argumentó el diputado del gobernante Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), René Martínez.

Valle es un ex prefecto regional procesado en rebeldía por delitos económicos y Marinkovic un ex ministro de Salud que fue condenado la semana pasada por un fraude en una compra de vacunas. Ambos integraron pasados gobiernos derechistas. □

Primer caso de gripe porcina en Perú

LIMA (AP) - El ministro de Salud, Oscar Ugarte, informó el jueves que se ha detectado el primer caso de gripe porcina en Perú.

Ugarte dijo que se trata de una ciudadana peruana que retornó a Perú desde Estados Unidos, en un vuelo directo de Nueva York.

“Se ha confirmado el primer caso de influenza denominada H1N1 en el país, se trata de una ciudadana peruana que arribó al país en un vuelo de LAN el día sábado en la noche. Esta ciudadana peruana de 27 años llegó asintomática, es decir sin molestias y el día domingo en la noche presentó fiebre y malestar”, detalló Ugarte en rueda de prensa.

El anuncio de Ugarte se produce un día después que Perú levantara la suspensión de los vuelos hacia y desde México, que rigió desde el pasado 29 de abril.

El ministro dijo que la mujer se encuentra estable y aislada en su domicilio, pues no requería de hospitalización. □

No a la reelección presidencial en Rep. Dominicana

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - Los dos principales partidos dominicanos convinieron eliminar de la Constitución la reelección presidencial consecutiva entre las reformas que discute el Legislativo al texto fundamental.

El pacto fue suscrito el jueves por el presidente Leonel Fernández y su principal oponente en las pasadas elecciones Miguel Vargas Maldonado, cuyos partidos, de la Liberación Dominicana (PLD) y Revolucionario Dominicano (PRD), respectivamente, componen casi el 90% de las cámaras baja y alta del Congreso.

Fernández se encuentra actualmente en su tercer mandato y segundo consecutivo gracias a una reforma constitucional de 2002 que permitió a optar a dos periodos consecutivos.

Actualmente se gestan nuevas modificaciones entre las que se contempla excluir esa opción, conforme lo pactado por los líderes políticos.

“Para nosotros el tema de la reelección no es un asunto de principios; hay que poner siempre el interés nacional por encima de los intereses particulares”, manifestó Fernández a los periodistas.

El convenio bipartidista contempló además que los legisladores que sean electos en las elecciones parlamentarias de 2010 tengan un periodo extraordinario de seis años a fin de que su gestión se empareje con la presidencial y en adelante concurren a elecciones los dos poderes juntos.

También decidieron mantener fijo en

178 el número de diputados y permitir que los dominicanos residentes en el extranjero tengan una representación legislativa.

Acordaron modificar el régimen que favorece la territorialidad sobre la filiación para otorgar la nacionalidad y esperan ahora darle más importancia a la consanguinidad, lo cual privilegia la descendencia sobre el territorio para otorgar la nacionalidad, explicó la analista política Rosario Espinal.

Otros puntos pactados incluyen modernizar las fuerzas armadas y la policía.

“El acuerdo contribuye al desarrollo del nuevo liderazgo a lo interno de los partidos políticos y a la estabilidad democrática del país”, aseguró Vargas Maldonado. □



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